

MARCH 8th, 1814.

Read the first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

A Bill

Concerning the use of the ports and harbors of the United States by foreign vessels of war.

1 *Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of*
2 *the United States of America in congress assembled, That the*
3 president of the United States may allow to any foreign power
4 or powers, or their subjects, as the case may be, in amity with
5 the United States, to fit out, arm, and equip for war, public and
6 private ships, to dispose of their prizes, and to procure supplies
7 in the ports and harbors of the United States, so far as will be
8 consistent with the obligations of the United States to other
9 powers in amity with the United States: *Provided however,*
10 That no privilege allowed in any such case shall be construed,
11 after it shall be known that a like privilege is not allowed to Ame-
12 rican armed ships, public and private, in the ports and markets
13 of the foreign power, to which, or the subjects of which, the pri-
14 vilege aforesaid may be allowed in the American ports and harbors.

1 Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted, That the president of the Unit-*
2 ed States be, and he is hereby authorised to take adequate bonds,
3 with sufficient sureties, of the owners of such privateers, and to
4 adopt such other regulations to secure the due performance of
5 the foregoing provision, whenever in his judgment circumstances
6 may require it.